

K – W – L for Beginning Teachers

Inquiry Question for Seminar Participants: What do I know as a teacher/learner about the students in my classroom?

Choose one class. You might even focus on one or two students as you think about this class. Use the following K-W-L chart to initiate your inquiry. Complete the first two columns and leave the last column empty for now. We will return to this column later.

Application to the Classroom: This strategy can be used at the beginning of an inquiry. It helps students identify what they already know and build their questions for study. Students complete the first two columns individually or in small groups and then share their responses in a larger group. Both the individual reflection and the group discussion provide direction for students prior to their investigations. After the inquiry, individuals (or small groups) return to the final column to reflect on what they have learned.

	K	W	L
In terms of my students'. . .	What do I know?	What do I want to know?	What have I learned?
Attitudes toward reading			
Attitudes toward writing			
Abilities in reading			
Abilities in writing			
Abilities to work collaboratively			
Abilities to reflect and self-assess			

Abilities to communicate understanding to others			
Study habits			
Other . . .			

As you consider each of the categories, think about the ways in which you collect evidence to help you learn more about your students. List the various ways in which you learn about your learners. (For example, do you learn about their attitudes toward an activity or topic by giving a survey? Do you ask your students to write “exit” reflections about what they have learned during the day’s lesson before they leave the classroom? Do you use anticipation guides?)

- 1.**
- 2.**
- 3.**
- 4.**
- 5.**
- 6.**
- 7.**
- 8.**

